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AUTHOR	Duker, Laurie, Ed.
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ABSTRACT

Many gun manufacturers market guns to women claiming a gun can provide protection. Statistics provided in this fact sheet indicate gun ownership may provide a false sense of security that can be fatal, since the greatest threat to a woman comes from the people and guns within her own home. Contrary to "typical" scenarios created by advertisers, data show that Americans are over three times more likely to be attacked at home by a person they know than attacked at home by a stranger. A gun in the home is 43 times more likely to kill a family member or friend than it is to kill in self-defense. The impact of having a gun present in a battering relationship is described. The document includes two charts, the first on the relationship of female homicide victims to assailants, and the second on the sex of the victim and the offender in a homicide. (RB)

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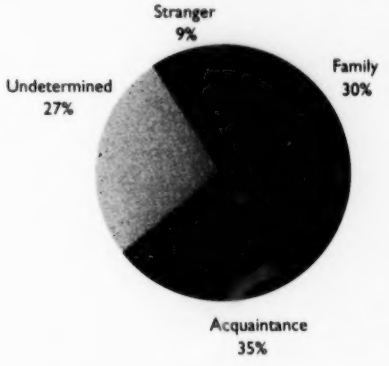
ED 378 456

Firearm Facts

WOMEN AND GUNS

Many gun manufacturers market guns to women claiming a gun can provide protection. Gun ownership may provide a false sense of security that can be fatal.

The greatest threat to a woman comes from the people and guns within her own home.[1]



Relationship of female homicide victims to assailants–U.S. 1988 (*Hammett et al, 1992, MMWR*)

From 1976 to 1987, more than twice as many American women were shot and killed by their husbands or boyfriends as were murdered by strangers using guns, knives, or any other means.[1]

Americans are over three times more likely to be attacked at home by a person they know than attacked at home by a stranger.[2]

However, gun advertisements tell women that they are in danger from criminals, and guns offer them protection.

A gun in the home is 43 times more likely to kill a family member or friend than it is to kill in self-defense.[3]

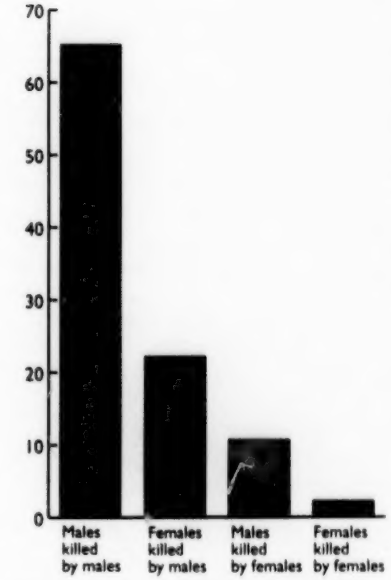
A woman may own a gun to protect her family, but once the gun is brought into her home, it puts her and her family at increased risk of a gun homicide, suicide, or unintentional shooting.

More women are killed by their husbands than men are killed by their wives.[1]

The typical man who kills his wife is a batterer who shoots his wife when she tries to leave him. A woman is more likely to kill a battering husband in self-defense or in retribution.[5,6] Men and women who kill their spouses are equally likely to use guns.[7] The presence of a gun in a battering relationship appears to increase the chance of death for both partners.[3]

Men are murdered over three times as often as women.[1]

Men represent 87% of the killers of male murder victims and 90% of the killers of female murder victims.



*1988 FBI data do not include Florida or Kentucky. Data source: Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)–Supplementary Homicide Report

Homicides, by sex of victim and offender, 1990 (*Hammett, 1992, MMWR*)

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Edited by
Laurie Duker, M.P.P.M.
Children's Safety Network at the
National Center for Education in Maternal
and Child Health

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Youth Alive at the Summit Medical Center,
Oakland, CA

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